

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

August 2001

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**120th Legislature
First Regular Session**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 2001**

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing select committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CARRIED OVER..... *Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session*
CON RES XXX..... *Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... *Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*
DIED BETWEEN BODIES..... *House & Senate disagree; bill died*
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... *One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... *Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*
EMERGENCY..... *Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... *Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... *Bill failed to get majority vote*
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... *Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... *Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died*
INDEF PP..... *Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
ONTP..... *Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
OTP ND..... *Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
OTP ND/NT..... *Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
P&S XXX..... *Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*
PUBLIC XXX..... *Chapter # of enacted Public Law*
RESOLVE XXX..... *Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*
UNSIGNED..... *Bill held by Governor*
VETO SUSTAINED..... *Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21, 2001**.

David E. Boulter, Director
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Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 647

An Act to Expand Parental Control of a Minor Child

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MACDOUGALL	ONTP MAJ	
CARPENTER	OTP MIN	

LD 647 proposed to direct the Department of Labor to adopt rules setting forth a process under which minors may be exempted from laws limiting the type of work they may perform and the hours and conditions under which they may work. The exemption would only be effective if the potential employer and the minor's parent, guardian or custodian give permission to the exemption.

LD 663

An Act to Provide Funding for Positions to Provide Computer Services to the Blind

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA	OTP-AM MAJ	S-200
NORBERT	ONTP MIN	

LD 663 proposed to require the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired to fill a vacant position assigned to the Iris Network computer access program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-200) proposed to provide a \$200,000 appropriation to the Division to support the cost of 3 computer access service positions to blind and visually impaired consumers.

Although LD 663 was not enacted, Part LLL of the "Part II" budget bill, Public Law 2001, chapter 439, appropriates \$67,000 a year for one new computer access specialist position.

LD 670

An Act to Strengthen Maine's Worker Advocate Program

PUBLIC 393

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J	OTP-AM MAJ	S-262 NUTTING J
BERRY R	ONTP MIN	

LD 670 proposed to allocate funds for 7 additional positions at the Workers' Compensation Board to provide more resources for the worker advocate program. It also proposed to increase the cap on the annual assessment for the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund by \$300,000. The bill also proposed to require troubleshooters within the workers' compensation system to conduct factual investigations and gather medical records as part of their required attempts to resolve disputes over worker injuries.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-189) proposed to replace the bill with a resolve. Instead of increasing the number of worker advocates and staff at the Workers' Compensation Board, the amendment proposed to reduce the workload of existing advocates by improving board efforts to identify and penalize companies that are misusing and